

Highlighted Idaho RAC Projects

Made possible by the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act

Boise National Forest

- Wilson Creek Fish Habitat Improvement Project. Workers removed a seven-foot diameter round culvert that was blocking fish passage, replacing it with a 16-foot arch culvert. The new open-bottom arch culvert will allow bull trout, listed as “threatened” under the Endangered Species Act, and other native fishes to move freely throughout the Third Fork drainage. Several partners helped fund the project, including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Southwest Idaho Resource Advisory Committee (RAC).
- Indian Mountain Allotment Riparian Fencing Project. The purpose of the project was to work with the livestock permittees to seasonally exclude cattle from bull trout spawning areas on graze allotments. The Southwest RAC's role in the project was to purchase fence and spring development supplies, pay a contractor to build the fence, and pay a contractor to ride and maintain the fence. Altogether, eleven miles of bull trout spawning habitat were seasonally excluded from grazing using twenty-one miles of fence constructed along Dewey Creek, East Fork of the Weiser River, and Sheep Creek. Seven water sources were improved or constructed and the livestock permittees provided riders to maintain the fences.

Clearwater National Forest

- Palouse Weed Control Partnership. This project is a partnership with the FS, State Of Idaho, and Latah and Clearwater Counties all working to get rid of noxious and invasive weeds on lands and roads that are near the Clearwater Forest Palouse Ranger District. It was featured on television with Roger Batt who runs the State Of Idaho's Noxious Weed Education program doing a Tansy Ragwort identification and eradication project. Tansy Ragwort is poisonous to cattle and spreads like wildfire. RAC money bought an ATV last year and tanks and nozzles this year. They did inventory and eradication and had great success all attributed to RAC money and the Coop. Potlatch Corporation, Bennett Lumber Products, Idaho Department Of Lands, the City of Troy and the University of Idaho are all on board for next year after seeing the success the past two years.
- Gold Lake Tunnel Restoration Project. This is a historic water tunnel used in the mining hey days to divert Gold Creek for various water needs. The tunnel is being restored to stop any erosion that might occur if it collapses. The stream bank is being made into an oxbow type of entrance and exit to slow down the erosion caused in high water. The Idaho State Historic Preservation office worked with

the FS as well as the Nez Perce Tribe Fisheries Department. They conducted archeological and cultural surveys on the site and suggested some options for repair.

Nez Perce National Forest

- A community-based weed management strategy project was led by the Idaho County Weed Control Group. The goal was to reduce the spread and future impacts of weeds on and adjacent to the Nez Perce National Forest by treatment of key road networks both on and off the forest and treatment of weeds along the key private/forest interface areas within highly susceptible habitats. A total of 2366 acres of priority weed infested areas were treated during the summer of 2002. Target weeds include Yellow starthistle, spotted knapweed, rush skeletonweed, Leafy spurge and hoary cress. The project was completed with local contractors utilizing \$78,900 of Title II funds and \$98,000 of landowner contributions.
- Seven Devils Road #517 project was completed with RAC approved funding and contributed \$70,000 to the project with the Forest Service's share being \$118,000. Work activities included reconditioning the existing roadway, improving the road surface by placing crushed rock, and restoring existing turnouts and drainage. Now visitors, in ordinary cars, are able to access the spectacular scenery in the Seven Devils area, as well as the Heaven's Gate Lookout, where the views in each direction encompass 4 states.

Caribou Targhee National Forest

- The Fall Creek Road and Trailhead Improvement Project was completed with the help of \$20,000 of RAC approved funding and a match of \$22,000 from Bonneville County. The project improved the trailhead and parking lot and replaced a ford on the Fall Creek Road with an open bottom bridge to protect fish habitat.
- Pritchard Creek Restoration project used RAC funds to complete work related to reclaiming an old reservoir, decreased sedimentation, and introduced native plant vegetation.

Panhandle National Forest

- The West Fork St. Maries River Stream Habitat Improvement Project. The purpose of the West Fork St. Maries River Stream Habitat Improvement Project was to improve aquatic habitat and water quality conditions by increasing abundance of large woody debris in the stream channel and to promote quality fishery resources and recreational fishing opportunities in the St. Maries River watershed. Riparian planting, fish population assessments, and habitat inventories

were also conducted and will continue in the future in cooperation with project partners.

- 57 Bear Paw Project. This is a Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) project located in the Four Corners area of the Priest Lake District, along the Johnson Road, Bear Paw Road, and Highway 57. This project met the criteria for use of the Hazardous Fuels Categorical Exclusion (CE) and a decision was signed in December, 2004. The project is primarily designed to treat hazardous fuels by thinning dense forest stands in order to alter fire behavior in and around the Wildland Urban Interface. The project and adjacent private lands have been identified in the Bonner County Fire Plan as a high priority area.

For more information, please contact either Calli Daly, (202) 224-2752, or Dan Whiting, (202) 224-8078, in Idaho Senator Larry Craig's office.